

NEWS NOTES

#22

JULY 24, 1969

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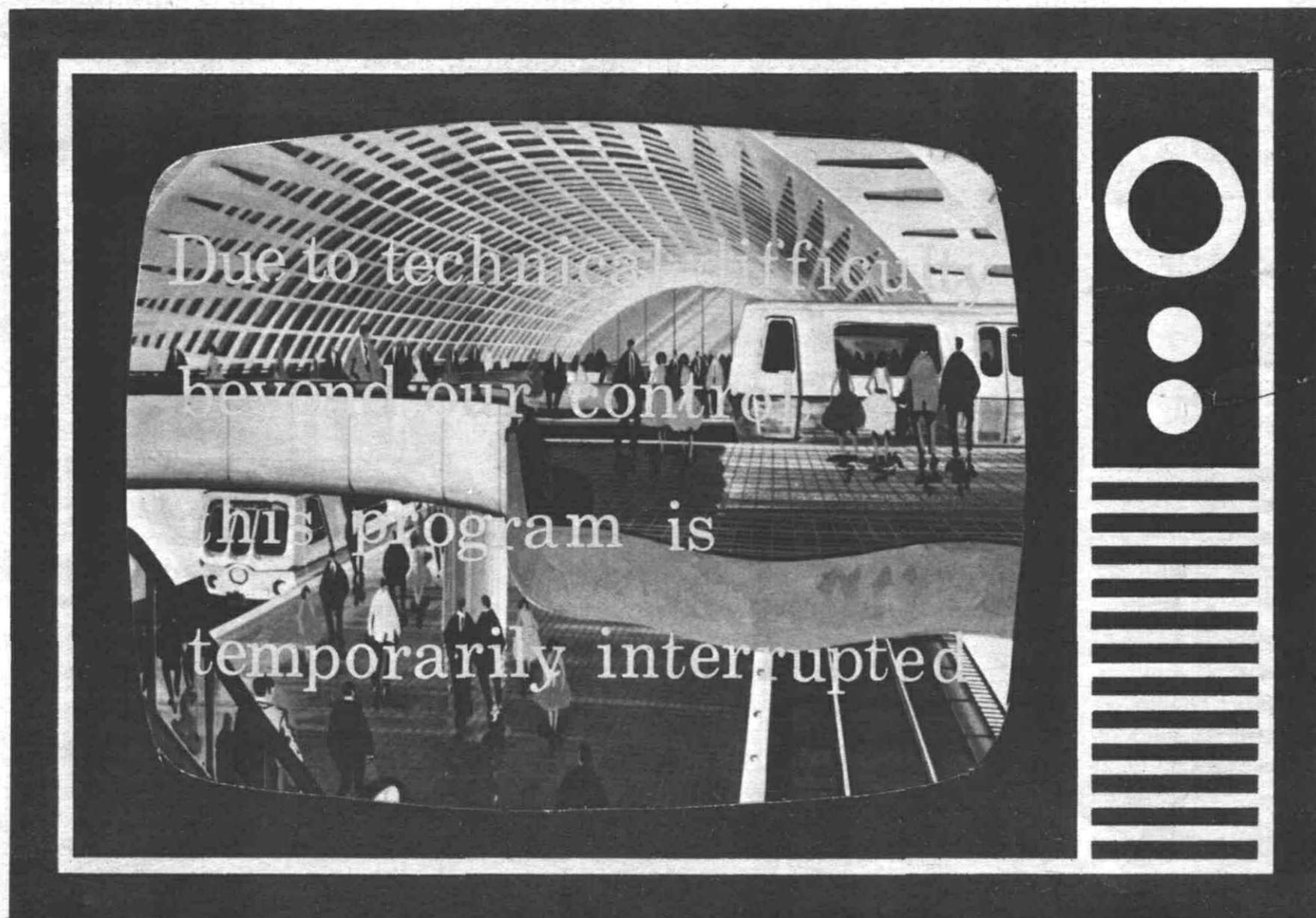
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from the Capitol East Gazette



Nixon's war on justice

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Subway blackmail

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NEWS NOTES

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EDITOR: Sam Smith
TELEPHONE: 543-5850

Letters

Too pessimistic

YOUR article about credit unions in the July 3 issue of News Notes made a number of excellent points, but we feel that the picture you paint is far too pessimistic.

Actually, we feel that OEO's commitment to support the credit unions for three more years, which may extend to five, is an asset. This commitment was made on the basis of a positive evaluation of the credit union program, and we feel flattered that OEO had enough confidence in the continued growth of the program to make it.

While it would have been ideal to receive a permanent funding commitment from OEO, we could not realistically have expected it. As it is, OEO has extended us a commitment which goes beyond the life of the agency itself. A guarantee such as this from a federal agency places a moral obligation upon the federal government to continue the commitment even if OEO is eliminated.

The eventual phaseout of federal support for the credit union program has been understood from the beginning. We also understood that answers as to when and how would come out of the OEO evaluation.

It is probably as a result of our success in the past that OEO has decided we will have the ability to make it alone in three to five years, and all current measures indicate that we will.

Certainly, the present situation is an improvement over the year-to-year funding we have had in the past. It is especially important for a financial institution such as a credit union to have the confidence of the community it serves, and we feel that the OEO commitment adds considerable strength to the guarantee we can give community residents that the program will continue to grow.



In addition, we are pleased that the American Federation of Community Credit Unions will be operating the nine UPO-funded credit unions as a delegate agency. The OEO grant will remain at the same level for three years. As the Federation decreases the financial support of each credit union based on the OEO plan, the remainder of the annual OEO grant will be available for a guarantee fund as a hedge against bad loans and a loan capital fund to generate increased funds on a matching basis or ideally a higher multiplier ratio.

The community boards and residents are well aware that, if the very worst happens, credit unions may have to be run on a volunteer basis. Yet, they have continued to build and strengthen the financial base of the credit unions. The AFCCU has a huge stake in the continued success of low-income community credit unions, and have indicated they are prepared to accept the challenge.

With all factors considered, we feel much more comfortable with the new funding agreement than we have in the past. The signs indicate that our growth will continue and

that we will meet the goals outlined in the OEO plan.

James Williams

Director, Community Organization & Services

United Planning Organization.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The fact remains that the federal government is bailing out of the credit union business at the very time that it should be expanding its commitment to such agencies. The credit unions may indeed survive the desertion of the federal government, but they deserve better than that.

NEWS NOTES welcomes letters to the editor. Address all correspondence c/o the Gazette, 109 8th St. NE, Washington DC 20002

NOTE

WITH THIS issue News Notes changes both its format and its publishing schedule. Henceforth, News Notes will be published in tabloid form and will appear semi-monthly (22 issues a year). Normally, News Notes will suspend publication during one of the summer months. This year, however, News Notes will take a vacation in October, rejoining the local fray in November.

INTRODUCE NEWS NOTES

TO OTHERS



War on justice: the crime package

PRESIDENT Nixon's war on District crime is, in fact, a war on traditional concepts of justice. From his unconstitutional "preventive detention" proposal (which even such a conservative man as Sam Ervin believes would herald a police state) to his grossly insensitive appointment of a white, southern private detective as U. S. Marshall for the city, Nixon is displaying an increasingly contemptuous attitude towards the rights of District citizens.

To be sure, Washingtonians are already second class citizens. But in recent administrations there has been a growing sense that even if Congress would not give us self-government, the more repugnant aspects of our colonial life should at least be mitigated. The Johnson Administration's reorganization plan was one small case in point.

But this Administration has no sense of guilt about Washington's status. It is a restless village to be pacified and a receptacle for Republican patronage. Little more. The Administration brings in judges from Maryland, a U. S. Marshall from Tennessee, and would gladly appoint a Broyhill wardheeler to the City Council if only the law would permit it.

The Nixon crime package is out of the same mold. Nixon has to redeem his law and order pledge and what easier way to pay the price than to use the residents of the District as currency?

So here then is what we, victims of a campaign promise, have to look forward to if the Nixon Administration has its way with its crime legislation:

- Preventive detention -- permitting "dangerous" suspects to be held up to 60 days upon court approval without being brought to trial.

- Electronic eavesdropping without a court order in "emergency situations." Even broader eavesdropping powers given to police with a court order.

- A "no-knock rule" to permit police to serve warrants by smashing down a door, for example, rather than by announcing their presence first as is now required.

- Expanded police search powers.

- The virtual elimination of habeas corpus writs to challenge commitment for mental illness. They would be replaced with procedures that would force the patient to prove he is mentally well rather than the hospital having to prove that he is mentally ill.

- The establishment of a corps of special investigators under the U. S. Attorney with rights of arrest and investigation equal to that of the police force.

- A provision permitting the prosecution to halt a trial at anytime there is a ruling unfavorable to it so it can appeal the point to an appellate court.

- A provision permitting a judge to sentence to life imprisonment any person guilty of committing three felonies.

- A provision eliminating the U. S. Court of Appeals, which has been responsible for many rulings on behalf of the people of the District, from the consideration of local issues.

- The continued denial of the right of the city to select its own judges and prosecutors.

- The denial of an absolute right of appeal in misdemeanor cases in which the fine is less than \$50. (many political and civil rights arrests fall into this category).

- A provision to permit the police additional time to hold arrestees prior to arraignment.

In full, the recommendations represent an incredible attack on elemental fairness and a strong move toward the establishment of back-door martial law in the District. The grants of new powers to the police, the creation of a new secret police force under the U. S. Attorney, the by-passing of the Court of Appeals, the by-passing of the Constitution, all make their contribution to the Nixon concept of law and order. The President has proposed a system that, under a thin veil of procedure, amounts to little more than a crude mechanism to repress the city's black and poor.

The preventive detention measure -- for example -- could be easily used for drag-net imprisonment during disturbances. Abuses by the U.S. Attorney's squad would be immune from remedy by the city government. The police could greatly increase the use of harrassing arrest.

The president has come up with a vicious plan for dispensing justice in the District. The residents of this city have few enough rights as it is without having a carload more removed in the name of a spurious concept of law and order.



Subways, freeways and other ways

Building pressure

THE City Council was buffeted last week by the strongest political pressure it has felt in its short existence. Caught between a determined community on the one hand and ugly political blackmail on the other, between conscience and expediency, the Council struggled to decide what to do next in the freeway-subway impasse. As we went to press, the Council's stated position remained unchanged. It was still opposed to the Three Sisters Bridge and the North Central Freeway. But the situation was changing daily and it was difficult to predict what would happen next.

The Council was under increasing pressure because of a three-sided blackmail attempt on the part of the congressional freeway lobby and the Nixon Administration. Unless it gave in, it faced:

- A continuing withholding of subway funds by Congress.

- The withholding of urban renewal, housing and other funds by the Nixon Administration.

The prospect that the President would demand the resignation of City Councilmen who balked on the issue.

Community leaders, meanwhile, were telling the Council that:

- The subway wasn't worth the price of constructing the Three Sisters Bridge.

- Capitulation would badly discredit the city government and seriously damage its ability to govern.

- The present blackmail would be followed by other such attempts, forcing the construction of other road projects such as the North Central Freeway and a downtown expressway.

- The issue was not just freeways but freedom -- whether the Council was going to stand on the side of self-determination or colonialism.

While the congressional blackmail was of long standing, the Nixon Administration's activities represented a new and brutal attack on the already meager powers of the city government. The rampant cynicism involved in holding desperately needed DC funds hostage to a road project shattered all pretense that President Nixon was interested in increased self-determination for the city. The bitter truth of Nixon's non-commitment to the city was laid bare.

Nixon was obviously treating the District in a manner he would not dare to emulate in a city with home rule or a city that was predominately white instead of predominantly black.

Meanwhile, anti-freeway forces were forming their battle lines and

making their impact felt. A late night conference with wavering Councilman Joseph Yeldell at least momentarily prevented one vote (and an important one because of Yeldell's credibility in the community) from swinging over to the freeway pushers. Arlington County leaders brushed off their still pending law suit that argues that since land needed for the Three Sisters Bridge was given in perpetuity for park purposes only, construction of the bridge would be illegal. Some three hundred civic groups in the District and the suburbs have come out against the freeways (a virtually unanimous position with the exception of the patronage-hungry local GOP committee, which represents its own political hopes but little else). In a city with home rule, there would be no doubt how a council would react to such an overwhelming outpouring of sentiment, and community leaders were busily reminding local councilmen of their responsibility to local sentiment.

Capitulation on the freeway issue would be a shallow victory for the Nixon Administration. This tense city could easily erupt again if that delicate balance between the District Building and the politically militant but nonviolent community leadership is destroyed. Yet this is precisely what would happen if the Council changed its position. The District Building would be turning its back on the very people it needs most to keep the city from anarchy. Anger over the attempted blackmail runs deep. We suspect President Nixon will not try to walk 7th St. again if he forces the city to its knees on this issue.

Among those contributing to the

pressure on the Council have been the Post and the Star.

The dailies would like to have us believe that if we don't give in on the freeways, Washington's transportation future is irretrievably lost. In fact, such is far from the case. A subway system has always been a rather luxurious and leisurely way of solving Washington's transportation crisis. If Congress was willing to spend the money required to construct a subway, there was no reason for the District to look a gift Metro in the mouth. If, on the other hand, Congress wishes to withhold the money, then it is perfectly feasible to find other ways of moving large numbers of people rapidly -- and to do it cheaper and sooner.

Congress may even have done the District an indirect favor. If the subway impasse forces the city to come up with other solutions to the transportation problem (including new parking regulations and improved surface transit) then we may ease our problems more quickly than if we had waited the many years required for the subway. New techniques may make the Metro obsolete even before it is constructed. Certainly, tunnelling a subway under the ground is one of the most expensive ways to move people. Since the men on the Hill have begun acting up, we have heard an increasing number of persons talking seriously about these other alternatives. This is good.

We can wait on the subway until Congress becomes a little less perverse in its ways. We may even find that we don't really need it, that a love affair with a half-a-century old transportation concept may not be the best way to face the next century. In any case, there is no need to cut off the city's arm now for a bottle of medicine of uncertain value to be delivered years hence.

NOTES

MAX RAFFERTY, California's arch-conservative school superintendent, has a new aide: our own Carl Hansen, formerly head of DC's school system (until justice and Skelly Wright prevailed.) Of school board member Julius Hobson, Hansen offers this parting shot, "If the people reelect him again they should have their franchise removed." Bye, Carl.

GOV. REAGEN: "I worked for Jack Warner for ten years, and that wasn't easy. I was on TV for General Electric for ten years and I survived that, too. But those goddam Berkeley kids -- they've given me an ulcer."

FROM the Washington Post: "Attorney General John N. Mitchell said yesterday that citizens have no basis for fearing eavesdropping by Big Brother -- 'unless they are involved in organized crime.'" Tell that to Mrs. Martin Luther King Jr.

HARD TIMES quotes a study by Earl Mellor, University of Maryland graduate student, that shows that the Shaw-Cardozo area pays more in taxes every year than it gets in government aid. The government gets \$50 million in taxes from the ghetto community, spends only \$43 million. Becoming a model city can be expensive -- if you are poor.

DC's do-little libraries

What could be done

THE director of the Brooklyn Public Library said once: "The stakes for libraries, and for people who use them, are high. The price we will pay for complacency and the conduct of business as usual will be oblivion. . .

"People, particularly the young and the black, will increasingly resist the manipulation of the individual to accomodate the self-defined purposes of our established institutions. We must change what libraries are. Decisions on the design and delivery of library services to a particular community must be made at levels closest to those who use the library."

There is good reason to question the value of the DC Public Library to inner-city residents of all ages. What effort has been made by DCPL to reach all the people it is tax-paid to serve, in order to determine what, if any, function it has for them?

The question can be more clearly posed and answered by considering what libraries in other cities have done and are doing. Many metropolitan library systems have recognized their irrelevancy as middle-class institutions used by the few. They have begun to deal with their self-imposed inaccessibility. Briefly, a sample of the programs runs like this:

- A community relations program in which someone (preferably from the community rather than a librarian) operates locally out of a branch. He personally contacts agencies and organizations in an effort to discover how the library can give needed service relevant to what is happening in the community. (New York, New Haven, Los Angeles, Chicago, Detroit, San Francisco, etc.)

- A volunteer project to recruit college students and other adults for conducting reading and storytelling programs for children in day camps, playgrounds, housing projects and other agencies; a training course of five sessions to acquaint volunteers with techniques of story telling. (Many cities.)

- Civil service exam training classes under instructors provided by the Board of Education, with a separate program for children while their parents are in class. (Chicago)

- Black Heritage Clubs for boys and girls starting from the 4th grade (Chicago, Los Angeles)

- Sex education and hygiene class for high school girls (counselors from local hospitals administer the course). (Chicago, Los Angeles)

- Outdoor programs with a mobile theater unit. . . in parks, projects etc. (Chicago, Brooklyn, Los Angeles).

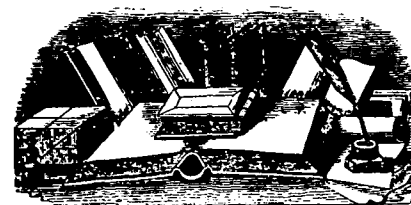
- Bookmobile converted into a 'Story Caravan' for children with a loud speaker system and record player for announcements and music (Chicago), or a store-front 'Treasure House' with children's books (Brooklyn).

- Street reference project: people who work out of a car (plain, not institutional), talk to people, offer books, information etc. The material is circulated without the ordinary red tape, i. e. registration for cards, due dates, etc. Pamphlets and books (if requested) on consumer education, job-information, drugs etc. are simply distributed. (San Francisco, Baltimore, Brooklyn, Detroit, etc.)

- Railroad Car Library (the conversion of something like a railroad car, or even a room, expressly for young people) staffed by youth from the community. These young people program speakers, entertainment etc. (Terre Haute).

- Afro-American Art, fashion, photography exhibits (Many cities).

- Karate and judo demonstrations (Many cities).



- Anti-Boredom Portable Sets placed in 'waiting' places such as clinics, laundromats, social agencies, employment offices, etc. (Chicago)

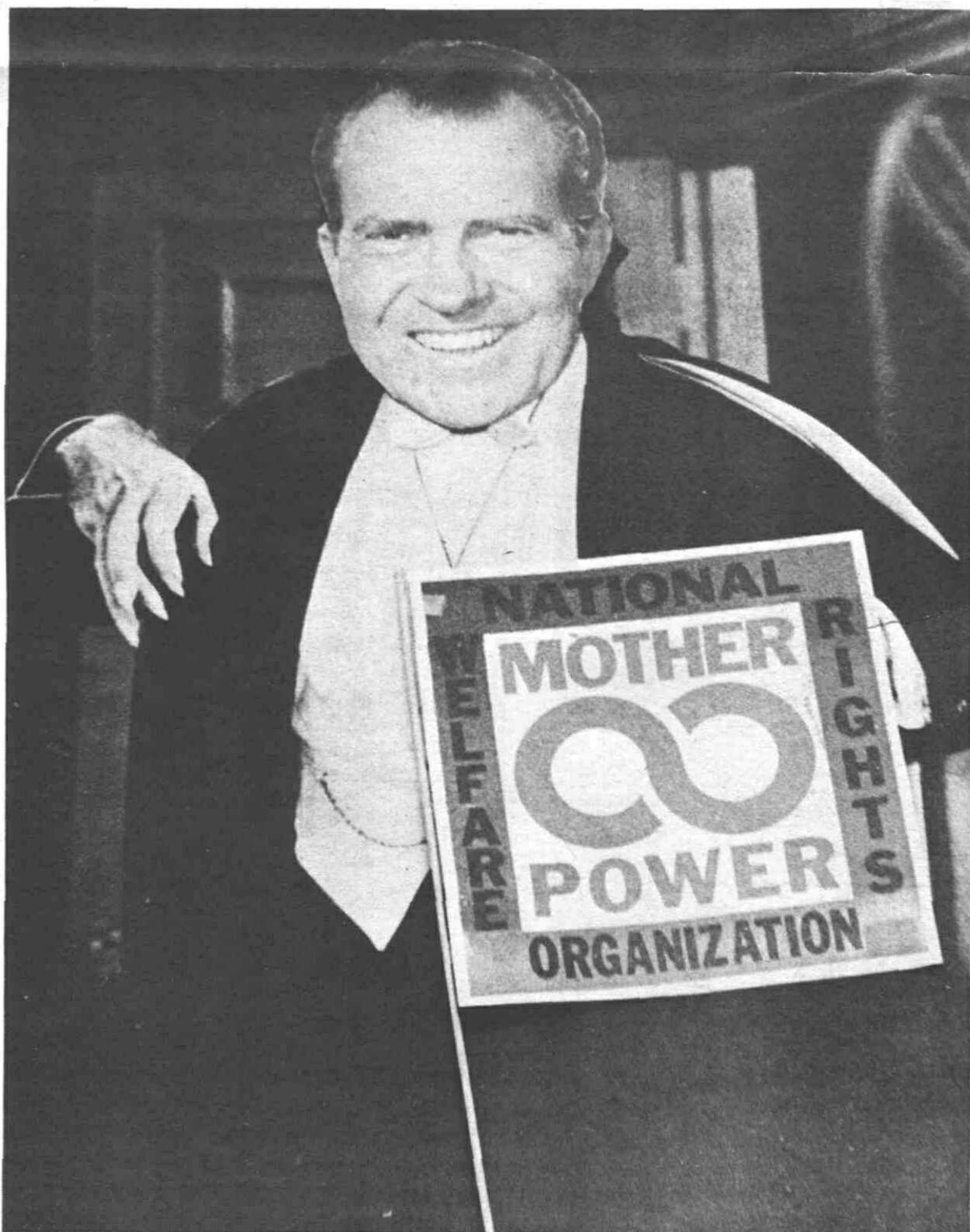
- Reading centers, using pertinent paperback books, set up in housing projects (Chicago, Brooklyn, Baltimore)

- Storytellers who go to stoops, meeting places, parks, day-care centers, etc. to tell stories to children. (Several cities).

In nearly every case mentioned, the community was consulted and their ideas were implemented. In none of the cases mentioned did the library impose the program.

These efforts suggest the extent to which the DCPL has attempted to evaluate itself, the extent to which it has aggressively committed itself. None of these programs exist here, except in a fits-and-starts sort of way, or as a concession in one or two communities. Most of the programs do not exist at all. DCPL's commitment to the inner city is non-existent.

-- LPC



Montage by unknown artist in District Building press room

WHAT'S HAPPENING

city affairs

A COALITION OF Washington area peace groups is sponsoring a march on August 9 in memorial to the bombing of Nagasaki. The march will begin at the Peace Statue at the Capitol and proceed to the Tidal Basin where there will be a rally with speeches on the Japanese-American Security Treaty, the Vietnam War, and the ABM-MIRV system. Groups sponsoring the march, which begins at 3:30 p. m., include SANE, Washington Mobilization, Student Mobilization Committee, Washington Peace Center and the Catholic Peace Fellowship. Organizations interested in supporting this action should contact Margie Ferretti (234-2000, 657-3782) or Kathy Coram (362-0037).

THE City Council's government operations committee hears government witnesses on District insurance problems at 10 a. m. on July 29 in the Council chambers.

THE Student Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam has announced plans for a march on Washington November 15. This will follow by one day a nationwide student strike, also called to protest the war in Vietnam. Info: SMC, 857 Broadway, NYC. 212-675-8466.

THE City Council's government operations committee will hold hearings on July 30 in room 410 of the District Bldg. on proposed revisions of the fire prevention code and building code for the District. Persons wishing to testify or to make comments or suggestions concerning this matter should contact the Council Secretary at 629-3806. Copies of the proposed revisions are available at the Council office.

THE TRANSIT Commission begins hearings on July 28 at 10 a. m. on D. C. Transit's umpteenth request for a fare hike. Hearings will be in room 314, at 1625 Eye NW. Starting at 7 p. m. on July 29, the Emergency Committee on the Transportation Crisis will hold its own hearings on the same subject with "demands formulated and then presented to city officials, WMATC, etc."

WALTER Washington is scheduled to show up July 26 for what the Emergency Committee on the Transportation Crisis bills as a "victory celebration to herald rehabilitation and occupancy" of the 69 homes taken for the North Central Freeway in Brookland. Place: 10th & Franklin NE. On August 6, the four persons arrested during a recent demonstration at the site of these homes come to trial.

the arts

A selective guide

THE noisiest art show in town is currently on display at the Corcoran Gallery's Dupont Center, 1503 21st NW. A computer that plays music, a machine that paints, and a strobe light sculpture that gives one a hangover are representative of the pieces displayed in this exhibit of technology and the arts. Pepco should give the Corcoran a gold medallion for this all-electric show.

Cybernetic Serendipity

the computer and the arts

WEEKEND workshops for persons interested in theatre directing will be held during September at Galludet College, 7th & Fla. NE. The Saturday sessions will run from Sept. 6 through Sept. 27. Enrollment is limited and there is a fee. Info: 735-2197.

A MOD musical version of "As You Like It" will be rocking the Sylvan Theatre through August 24 (nightly at 8:30 except Mondays). Produced by the Shakespeare Summer Festival, 393-3420.

MOVIES: "If" at the Dupont; "I Am Curious" at the Janus; "The Lion in Winter" at the Apex; "Funny Girl" at the Cinema; "Bonnie & Clyde" and "Cool Hand Luke" at the Ontario

AT THE INNER CIRCLE: "Never on Sunday" and "Topak" (July 27-28).

AT THE BIOGRAPH: Buster Keaton's "The General" (starts July 28); W. C. Fields and Mae West in "My Little Chickadee" and Boris Karloff in "Frankenstein." (starts Aug. 4).

THE New York City Ballet comes to the Post Pavillion, Columbia, July 30--Aug. 3.

AT CARTER BARRON: Smokey Robinson and the Miracles (July 28--Aug. 3); Jerry Butler and the Impressions (Aug. 4-10); Ella Fitzgerald, King Curtis and Hugh Masekela (Aug. 11-17); Johnny Mathis and Henry Mancini (Aug. 18-24); Peter, Paul and Mary plus Gordon Lightfoot (Aug. 25-31).

"ANNIE Get Your Gun" at Theatre-on-the-Mall through July 27.

BEACH BOYS at Post Pavillion July 28 only. Followed by Marlene Dietrich (Aug. 13-16) and Sergio Mendes (Aug. 29-31). Also P. D. Q. Bach (July 27) and Elizabeth Schwarzkopf (Aug. 10).

JAZZ at Laurel: Nancy Wilson, Herbie Mann, Count Basie, Thad Jones (Aug. 1); Cannonball Adderly, Dizzie Gillespie, Horace Silver, Roberta Flack, Buddy Rich (Aug. 2); James Brown (Aug. 3).

JOSEPH Heller's "W. Bombed in New Haven" at the Theatre Lobby.

AT SHADY GROVE: Gary Puckett and the Union Gap (Aug. 4) and Vanilla Fudge (Aug. 11).

"SPREAD Eagle IV" at the Washington Theater Club.

THE St. Albans Repertory Theater is presenting through the month of August the following: Tom Stoppard's "Albert Bridge," Robert Anderson's "I Never Sang for My Father," and Eugene Ionesco's "A Stroll in the Air."



other things

THE National Park Service conducts hour-long walks around Theodore Roosevelt Island three times daily through the month of August. The hikes begin at the island's memorial at 11 a. m., 2 p. m. and 4 p. m.

THE Washington Peace Center, 2111 Fla. Ave. NW, offers free draft counseling, 10 a. m. to 6 p. m. weekdays. Call 234-2000 or 234-6211.

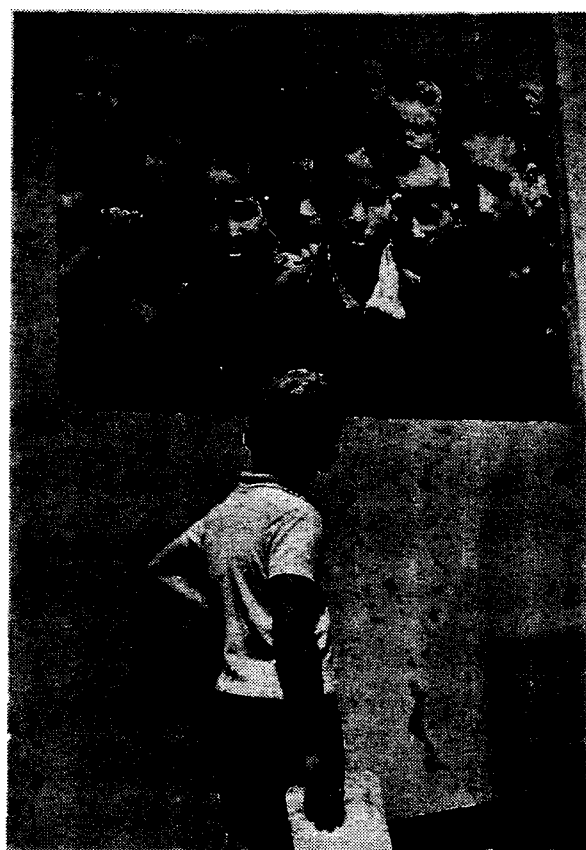


Photo by Roland L. Freeman

AT the Smithsonian's Arts and Industries Museum through August 24: The Concerned Photographer. 200 photographs by six photographers concerned about the human condition. The six are Werner Bischof, Robert Capa, Leonard Freed, Andrew Kertesz, David Seymour and Dan Weiner. There is an admission charge of 50 cents with proceeds going to the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum. Open daily 10 a. m. to 5:30 p. m.

How low a wage can we afford?

Madeleine B. Furth

(Appearing before the Mayor's Economic Development Committee last month, Madeleine B. Furth argued that the MEDCO economic development plan, which calls for a minimum wage (in 1967 dollars) of \$2.25 an hour by 1978, had set its sights too low. Here are excerpts from her testimony):

THE problem in Washington and in other American cities is that of income inequality. And the question we must ask is how low a wage can we afford? Let me illustrate the question with an example:

Let us compare the life of two janitors in Washington. One earns \$1.60 and the other earns \$3.40. The janitor who earns \$3.40 does not need food stamps, he does not need public housing, he has books and toys in his home that stimulate the intellect and interest of parents and children. His children are adequately fed and clothed. He has medical and surgical insurance for himself and his family, and probably also has life insurance. He is a taxpayer, and he is a big consumer of goods and services. He has a stable employment history.

The second janitor, the one who earns only \$1.60, also has two children, but he is in every sense a problem. He needs food stamps, he needs public housing, when he is sick the city must give him and his family free care. The children are hungry and don't have enough clothes, particularly in the winter. His home is not full of books and toys not because the parents dislike toys but because they cannot afford to buy them. The chance that his children will become problem students is much greater. His children may need remedial reading, may later become truants, and may become delinquents. His home is tiny and overcrowded, and probably he has already lived through the trauma of a couple of evictions and having the gas turned off. He is cold in the winter and hot in the summer. If he isn't depressed already, he will get depressed very soon.

Behavioral scientists can give us the probability data on the costs created by poverty. A year in Laurel costs \$4,000. Added court and probation costs can come to another \$6,000. Building public housing for this family can cost \$18,000. Then we must add food costs for food stamps, social service costs for the family, medical costs, and the probability of needing remedial reading and a truancy officer.

We can reduce the probability of this family needing all of these services by simply raising the man's income. He is already earning \$1.60. If we gave him only another \$1.40 he would earn \$3.00 an hour or \$6,000 a year. With the extra money he could feed his children and himself and his spouse in an adequate manner, they would have enough clothes, and home would be a fun place with toys and books.

Multiplier effect

IF I were to open a store, I would build it in the suburbs because there the people are rich and have more money to spend. But if the city were less poor, and more rich, it would spend more money. The multiplier effect of giving an extra \$1.00 an hour to a poor family means that money is spent immediately and then is again respent so that this \$1.00 may be spent three times by different people in a given year, thus creating \$3.00 in purchasing power. If we want to keep the income inequality we have now, the 100,000 who are very poor will continue to be tiny consumers and will

continue to be a huge tax burden to those of the city who are middle class or rich.

There is no such thing as job parity. There is no such thing as the "right wage" for a janitor with given experience and given seniority. Many things influence the wage: if there is a union, the age of the union, the personnel philosophy of the firm. If a janitor is poor it is not because he is a janitor but because he is working for the wrong employer. Some firms have the personnel custom of reviewing the wages of all employees every six months, while other firms can leave a man at the \$1.60 for five or ten years.

I have spent so much time discussing wages because they are the most important ingredient in the plan. We cannot guess how much public housing we need until we know how many people will have incomes below \$5,000. We cannot estimate how much income supplement we shall need until we know how many poor we shall have. The goal of reaching \$2.25 an hour by 1978 means in my language: let's plan for huge slum costs.

Lower wages?

I MUST respond to the argument most frequently presented against increasing wages in the District. This is the myth that wages in the suburbs are lower. To take retail sales as an example, in the suburbs approximately 10% of the workers earn less than \$1.80 while in the city it is about 30%. Some of the city stores have the practice of hiring many sales clerks on a trial basis for 3, 4, or 5 months, then firing most of these clerks while creaming the best and giving them a raise. These fired workers cannot collect unemployment compensation and the likelihood of the workers forming unions in these stores is much less. In the suburbs there is a labor shortage in some areas and so the stores do not have this practice to the same extent. The whole wage pattern for the white sales clerk in the suburbs is higher than the wage pattern in the city.

We would not need a higher minimum wage if all companies gave sizable wage increments over the years. I do not particularly mind if a 16-year-old earns only \$1.60. But the sizeable increments are not yet sufficiently in evidence. Because of this lack, our entrance wage must be near a family living wage.

Another frequently heard argument is that due to the present inflation we must not increase the minimum wage. My reply is that obviously the economic trends of the country must be kept in mind, and must influence our thoughts, but we should be aware that whereas the middle and upper class get wages adjusted to the increasing cost of living, plus periodic sizeable increments, the poor automatically get neither. It is only thanks to minimum wage legislation that the minimum since 1966 has gone from \$1.25 to \$1.40 to \$1.60. On July 1st, the minimum wage in DC for retail sales went up to \$1.80 an hour; and on September 12, in court, 74 stores will request that the minimum be brought back down to \$1.60. I fully understand the argument about inflation, but to freeze the wages of those whose incomes are less than \$4,000, while not freezing other persons, is inhuman.



"I think we've found the solution to the rat problem"

ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

Ft. Lincoln

A new battle

THE conceptual plan for Ft. Lincoln is something less than perfect. With only 20% of the housing designed for low income families, it fails to pull its weight in solving the District's low-cost housing shortage. Not enough attention has been paid to using this several hundred acre tract in a way that would not only provide housing, but a significant increase in jobs as well. And the local planning council seems somewhat complacent about the industrial freeway slated to bump into the site.

But such problems are not the main issue concerning Ft. Lincoln now. The question is whether there will be a Ft. Lincoln at all, whether President Johnson's dream for a new town in-town is about to go down the drain.

The reports concerning Ft. Lincoln's future are varied, ranging from word that it will be left large-

ly vacant (a victim of the Nixon Administration's desire to trim federal expenditures, at least where people are concerned), to predictions that it will be turned over to private developers to even more dire warnings that it is under consideration as a potential ABM site. In any case, prospects are not bright.

If the Ft. Lincoln Planning Council had managed to pull itself together a bit quicker, things might not have deteriorated to their present state. The current situation finds the council fighting for its survival and fighting for the survival of its plan to turn Ft. Lincoln into a pleasant, carefully-conceived community. Walter Washington has attempted to take the matter completely out of the planning council's hands by appointing an ersatz city-wide group to oversee the Ft. Lincoln development. This attempt

proved unviable from the start when the first meeting of the group ended in disarray.

Last week, the planning council launched a counter-offensive by calling its own meeting to garner support. The results were impressive, bringing out city leaders and groups that don't always break bread together. Among those signing up were the Federation of Civic Assns., the Council of Churches, the Archdiocese, Doug Moore for the Black United Front, Reginald Booker for the Emergency Committee on the Transportation Crisis, the NAACP and the Urban League. Some of these have been on the Ft. Lincoln team for some time, others came to join the fight against what appears to be a Nixon-Washington double-cross.

The intrigues and dissention over Ft. Lincoln were forgotten. There was a bigger battle to fight now: Ft. Lincoln against the White House and the District Building.



OR

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